U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: August 9, 1999

Subject : R & R Sales, South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois

From: Brad Benning, U.S. EPA OSC, Region 5

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POLREP #1: Initial POLREP

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B5C4 Delivery Order No: 0024
CERCLIS No: ILSFN0507804 ERNS No:
Response Authority: CERCLA NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: IEPA, IAG Start Date: 8/2.99
Demobilization Date: N/A Completion Date: N/A
Status of Action Memorandum: Signed 7/9/99

III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category:

R & R Sales is an abandoned electroplating facility.

B. Site Location:

1. Site description:

The R & R Sales site is an inactive electroplating facility located at 3211 Holeman Avenue, South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois (latitude 41°28'15" N, longitude 89°37'10" W). The site is located in a mixed industrial and residential area. The site is bordered o the west by Holeman Avenue, to the north by an auto body shop, to the south by an architectural molding manufacturer, and to the east by a residence. A steel facility is located west of the site across Holeman Avenue. The site consists of a 7,000 square-foot building and a fenced yard.

2. Description of threat:

The R & R Sales site is an inactive electroplating facility which performed electroless nickel and chromium processes. The business went bankrupt in the early 1990s. When the facility was abandoned, approximately 400 gallons of chromic acid were left inside the building and approximately 2,500 gallons of used electrolysis nickel were left outside the building in the fenced yard area. Minor releases were observed inside the facility as drums and containers were left open and spilled due to vandalism. Evidence of leakage to the soil outside the building from deteriorating drums has been observed. Due to the existence of

numerous hazardous substances, and that releases are ongoing, the actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from the R & R Sales site present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health and welfare, or the environment.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

On May 13, 1999, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) representatives conducted a site assessment. Approximately 133 drums/containers were observed outside in the rear yard. Several of the metal drums appeared deteriorated; the poly drums appeared to be in good condition. Two of the 5-gallon containers had no lids and appeared to be chromic acid. Approximately 30 drums and 60 small containers were located inside the building. Most of the drums/containers appeared to be in good condition. Four samples were collected from drums that tested acidic with pH paper. All four samples had a pH of less than 1 standard unit (SU), designating them as hazardous waste. Total chromium results ranged from 64,500 to 161,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), or 6% to 16%. Total nickel results ranged from 23 to 301 mg/kg.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation:

Removal activities at the R & R Sales site began on August 2, 1999. Removal activities are being conducted by U.S. EPA through the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contract under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Activities will include staging of the drums and containers; collecting samples from the drums and soil; perform HAZCAT of the samples; overpacking drums and containers as necessary; and disposal of drums, containers, and contaminated soils.

2. Removal activities to date:

An Action Memorandum has been written by On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brad Benning was approved by the Division Director on July 9, 1999.

On August 2, 1999, OSC Brad Benning, START member Neil Derkowski, and ET representatives Chris Craigmiles and Rob McKinney discussed planned removal activities at the site. On that day, a Uni-Loader with separate forks, bucket, and barrel grappler attachments were mobilized to the site.

On August 3, 1999, the full ET crew mobilized to the site. ET staged the drums and small containers on plastic inside the building. General cleaning of the site also occurred. Also, an office trailer and generator were mobilized to the site.

On August 4, 1999, ET continued with staging of drums and container as well as general site cleaning.

On August 5, 1999, START and ET collect an inventory of drums and containers. There are approximately 172 drums, 6 vats, 1 sump, 1 empty above-ground storage tank (AST), and 70 various-sized containers at the site. ET collected HAZCAT samples from approximately 45 drums, and continued general cleaning activities.

On August 6, 1999, phone lines were installed in the trailer by Ameritech, and a fax and copier were supplied to the site. ET continued collecting HAZCAT samples from the drums. ET also began HAZCAT activities on samples collected. Results indicate that the majority of the drums contain nickel.

B. Planned Removal Actions

Develop and implement a site-specific work plan including a proposed time line. Develop and implement a site-specific health and safety plan. Secure, stage, sample, and characterize all site wastes in drums, tanks, vats, pits, sumps, piping, and other containers. Develop and implement an air monitoring and sampling program. Decontaminate or dispose of all scrap metal and RCRA-empty drums and containers produced during the removal action. Excavate contaminated soil and debris. Bulk and consolidate wastes in reparation for off-site disposal. Decontaminate affected building surfaces and perform soil sampling. Remove all hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants to an approved facility.

C. Next Steps

ET will continue to sample drums and perform HAZCAT activities. Overpacking of drums and containers will be conducted on an as-needed bases. A treatment, storage, and disposal facility will be acquired for the hazardous substances to be removed from the site.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. COSTS

Extramural Costs:

Total Cleanup Contractor (e.g, ERRS) Costs	$10.000
START	$1.800
CLP	NA
REAC	NA
TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS	$13.000

Intramural Costs:

Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT)	$1.500
Intramural Indirect Costs	$3.000
TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS	$4.500

TOTAL SITE COST	$17,500
Project Ceiling	$247.660
Project Funds Remaining (percentage)	93%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

eamMedium	Quantity	Containment	Treatment	Disposal	
	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA